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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

KOHSAN DISTRICT PROFILE

September 2014

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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

Kohsan District Profile

Submitted to:

USAID Afghanistan

Prepared by:

AECOM International Development

DISCLAIMER:

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Introduction

Stability in Key Areas (SIKA)-West is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded program intended to improve stability and pave the way for transition in the western provinces of Herat, Farah, Badghis, and Ghor. SIKA-West works in partnership with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) to assist selected district governments to improve their capacity to deliver basic services and better respond to the sources of instability identified by residents.

The District Profiles provide background information to assist SIKA-West and MRRD staff, as well as district entities (DEs), to better understand a specific district. The District Profiles build a picture of daily life in district communities, including access to basic services such as healthcare, roads, and education. They provide an overview of tribes, allegiances, and the local security situation to improve the identification and resolution of sources of instability at the district level.

A template for all District Profiles was developed by SIKA-West to standardize both data collection and the format of the information ultimately provided.

Staff members from the Provincial Support Teams (PSTs) were tasked with collecting information. Relevant local entities including the district governor's office (DGO), Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD), other government departments, United Nations (UN) officials, and local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were interviewed for information related to government structure and services, road networks, agricultural and industrial production, and development projects.

Research was also undertaken using reliable online sources and hard copy reports including Provincial Development Plans, especially when drafting sections on geography and population composition. Written sources have been cited where applicable. The vast bulk of the information relating to tribes, ethnic composition, political parties, key leaders, and security issues was gathered from interviews with community members, influential tribal leaders, and members of District Development Assemblies (DDAs).

In a lengthy process of drafting, review, and additional data collection, HQ communications staff finalized the District Profiles from October 2012 to November 2014 based on the information provided by the PSTs. All collecting, collating, and drafting of the District Profiles was undertaken by Afghans, with English editing by expatriates.

The main challenges to developing District Profiles were insufficient, incomplete, or contradictory information at the district level; lack of trustworthy resource material; unreliable demographic data; lack of proper maps, and; a deteriorating security situation in some districts that hampered information collection. These difficulties were mostly overcome through interviews with local elders, cross-checking information with government directorates, new Measuring Impacts of Stabilization Intervention (MISTI) district maps, and improved collection methods. Place names were taken from the MISTI maps, where available.

The authors would like to thank the following individuals for their time. They graciously contributed insight and information across numerous meetings and interviews.

List of interviewees:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
1.	Mr. Noor Ahmad Arab	District Executive Manager
2.	Mr. Noor Ahmad Nazari	Kohsan Village Manager
3.	Alhaj Sayed Mohammad Qasem Hussaini	Kohsan Hajj and Religious Affairs Manager

4.	Mr. Wali Mohammad Niazi	District Education Manager
5.	Mr. Taj Mohammad Kakar	District Mayor
6.	Mr. Mohammad Shoaib Yaghubi	District Telecommunications Manager
7.	Mr. Zabiullah Taimuri	Staff, DRRD
8.	Mr. Faraidoon Jamshidi	Manager, Agriculture Extension Department
9.	Haji Arbab Naem	Head of DDA
10.	Mr. Jawed Zargham	Staff, Directorate of Information and Culture
11.	Mr. Ghulam Rasoul Qarizada	Staff, Directorate of Telecommunications
12.	Mr. Nasir Ahmad Arwin Taheri	Director of Education
13.	Dr. Mohammad Asef Kabir	Deputy, Directorate of Public Health
14.	Mr. Sayed Noor Ahmadshah Alawi	Director of Telecommunications
15.	Mr. Abdul Naser Aswadi	Director of Economy
16.	Mr. Maasomi	District Specialist, Herat Governor's Office
17.	Mr. Faqir Ataaye	Staff, Haj and Religious Affairs Directorate
18.	Mr. Ezmarai Sakhi	Administrative Manager, Information and Culture Directorate
19.	Mr. Hares Akhtar Zadeh	Legal Aid Officer, Directorate of Justice
20.	Mr. Wahid Nastow	Staff, Directorate of Economy
21.	Mr. Mohammad Marouf Fazli	Head of the Afghan Mellat Party

ACRONYM LIST:

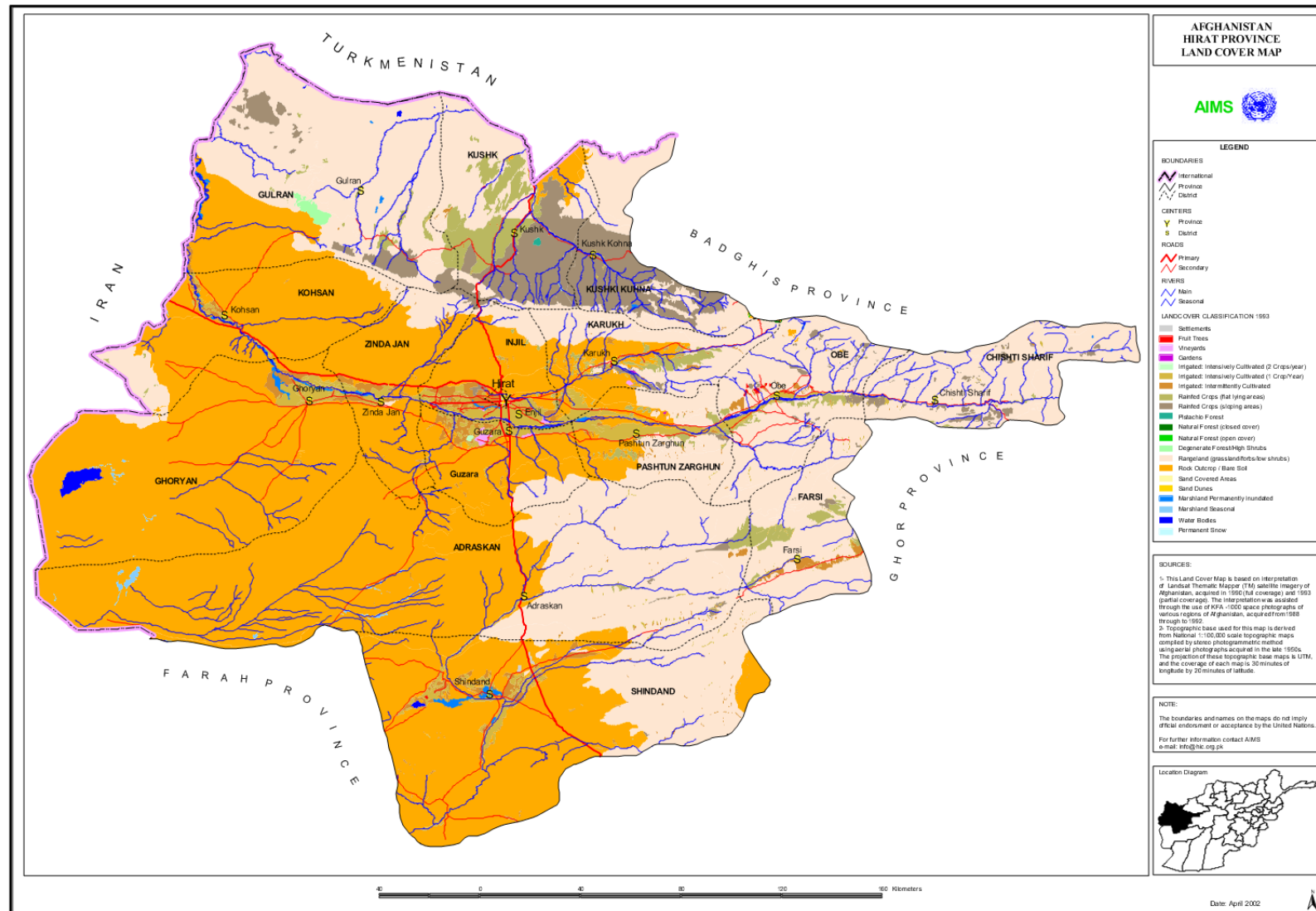
1	ADS	Automated Directive System
2	AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development
3	AECOM	Architecture Engineering Construction Operation Management
4	AGE	Anti-Government Elements
5	ALP	Afghan Local Police
6	AMP	Afghan Mellat Party
7	ANSF	Afghanistan National Security Force
8	AREDP	Afghan Rural Enterprise and Development Program
9	ASCOR	Afghan Center for Socio-Economic and Social Research
10	ASOP	Afghanistan Social Outreach Program
11	AWCC	Afghan Wireless Communication Company
12	CADG	Central Asia Development Group
13	CDC	Community Development Council
14	COAR	Coordination of Afghan Relief
15	COP	Chief of Party
16	CTG	Community Transformation Grant
17	DACAAR	Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees
18	DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation And Livestock
19	DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan–Veterinary Programmes
20	DCC	District Community Council
21	DCN	Department of Counter Narcotics
22	DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
23	DDA	District Development Assembly
24	DDP	District Development Plan
25	DE	District Entities
26	DG	District Governor
27	DGO	District Governor's Office
28	DPP	District Project Portfolio
29	DQA	Data Quality Assessment
30	DRRD	Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
31	DSM	District Stability Matrix
32	FAF	Foreign Assistance Framework
33	GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
34	ICMA	International City/County Management Association
35	IDEA/NEW-DAI	Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East, and West-DAI
36	IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
37	IED	Improvised Explosive Device
38	IR	Intermediate Result

39	IRD	International Relief and Development
40	ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
41	LGCD	Local Governance and Community Development
42	MIS	Management Information System
43	MISTI	Measuring Impacts of Stabilization Intervention
44	MOVE	Mobility Opportunities Via Education/Experience
45	MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
46	MSF-H	Medicines SANS frontiers–HOLLAND
47	MTN	Multi-Telecommunications Network
48	NABDP	National Area Based Development Program
49	NDS	National Directorate of Security
50	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
51	NPO/RRAA	Norwegian Project Office / Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan
52	NRAP/MRRD	National Rural Access Program / Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
53	NSP	National Solidarity Program
54	OSC	Overseas Strategic Consulting, Ltd.
55	PDC	Provincial Development Council
56	PG	Provincial Governor
57	PIRS	Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
58	PMP	Performance Management Plan
59	PMU	Provincial Management Unit
60	PRRD	Provincial Rural Rehabilitation Department
61	PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
62	SAM	Stabilization Analyses Mechanism
63	SAT	Stability Analysis Tool
64	SIKA-West	Stability in Key Areas – West
65	SO	Strategic Objective
66	SOI	Source of Instability
67	SPC	Service Provider Catalogue
68	STAB-U	Stability Unit
69	SWDC	Shindand Women's Development Council
70	SWG	Stability Working Group
71	SWSF	Shindand Women's Social Foundation
72	TB	Tuberculosis
73	TCAPF	Tactical Conflict Assessment Planning Framework
74	TI	Technologists, Inc.
75	UN	United Nations
76	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
77	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
78	WFP	World Food Program
79	WV	World Vision

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Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) – West
Kohsan District Profile



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Geography: Kohsan District is one of the 15 districts in Herat Province in western Afghanistan and it has an area of 4,848 square kilometers. Kohsan District is located in northwestern Herat Province, bordering Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Golran Districts to the north, Ghoryan District to the south, and Zendajan District to the east. The district also borders Iran to the west.

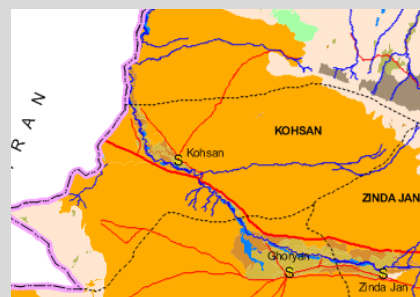
Kohsan District consists of 56 villages and is located 116 kilometers away from Herat City. The town of Islam Qala and the Islam Qala border crossing, the main border gateway between Iran and Afghanistan, are also located in this district. The district is linked to Herat City by a paved road which also links Kohsan District with the Islam Qala border.

The Hari Rod River passes through the district only a short distance from the district center. After flowing through the district and passing Dahaneh Zolfagar Village, it leaves Afghanistan and forms the common border of Iran and Turkmenistan as far as the Sarkhas area. After the Sarkhas area, it flows northward, then to the northwest, and is then absorbed into the sands of Turkmenistan. In addition to economic and agricultural value, Hari Rod also possesses great political importance, as it forms the political border between Afghanistan and Iran from north of Islam Qala up to Dahaneh Zolfagar.

In addition to the main Islam Qala Highway, the district has two smaller highways. One of these highways links the Kohsan District's center to Golran District in the north, while the other passes through Ta Kham Village and Komisari Village in the southwest, ending in the center of Ghoryan District.

Kohsan District Center is 21 kilometers away from the Islam Qala border area, which plays a significant role in the economy of the district.

Demographics: Kohsan District has approximately 140,000 inhabitants (80,000 male and 60,000 female). Fifty Seven percent of Kohsan District residents are Pashtun, and the remaining 43 percent are Tajiks, Tahiris, Baluchs, Jamshidis, Mirs, Arabs, Mishmasts or Timuris. Different tribes live mixed together in the same villages. Kargas Ab Tanha Village is mostly inhabited by the Achakzai tribe of Pashtuns.



**Figure I:
Kohsan District in Herat
Province**

QUICK FACTS

Demographics

Land Area

4,848 km

Population

- Total: 140,000

Gender Ratio

- Male: 50.5%
- Female : 49.5%
- Male :80,000
- Female :60,000

Literacy

- Male :30%
- Female :10%

Unemployment

Estimated as high as 70%

Due to the Taliban's strong influence and the government's lack of control in the northern areas of Kohsan District, (including Chah Sorkh-e Ghorih, Nik Bazgir, Barra Kuh, and Ab Mazar Villages), which are 60-70 kilometers away from the center of the district and on the border of Golran District, the government and its supporters cannot easily travel to these villages.

In early 1980, those who opposed the government and the presence of Soviet forces immigrated to neighboring countries, particularly to Iran and other provinces. In 1990, when the government collapsed and fell into the hands of the Mujahedin, most of the displaced returned and resettled in their villages. After the fall of the Mujahedin and emergence of the Taliban, once again people emigrated from the district. After the fall of the Taliban in 2001, when there was hope for a new government during the December 2001 elections, a large number of immigrants again returned to the country.

Politics: No political party has representatives in Kohsan District and there is very little political activity in the district.

The Economy: The economic mainstays of Kohsan District are agriculture, livestock, and revenue from import and export trade at the Islam Qala border crossing. The border is seen as a key crossing point with the potential to provide access for Afghan goods to Europe through the Caspian Sea. In addition, due to the fact that Islam Qala is one of Afghanistan's largest borders, a number of district residents work at the border. Through this border, dried fruits, saffron, carpets, spices, sesame, water melon seeds, and wool are exported to Iran and, in return, gas, fuel, iron, food, and clothing are imported to Afghanistan.

A number of younger community members now live or work in Herat City or Iran. Apart from income derived from migrant labor, a small number of community members supplement their income by weaving carpet-pile kilims, embroidery, and macramé knotting.

Drought is considered one of the main problems in the district and endangers agricultural production, the main source of income in the district. About 60 percent of formerly agricultural lands are no longer usable.

Security: Despite the presence of the Taliban in some areas such as Chah Sorkh-e Ghorih, Nik Bazgir, Barra Kuh, and Ab Mazar Villages, all of which border Golran District, the general security situation in the district is fairly stable. During this year, two security incidents occurred in the district: the death of six staff members by insurgents at the Halo Trust Demining Organization; and the placement of a mine in front of the NDS director's house, which killed his son.

GEOGRAPHY AND DEMOGRAPHY

Kohsan District has an area of 4,848 square kilometers and is located 116 kilometers away from Herat City. About 5.5 percent of the district consists of mountainous and semi-mountainous

areas, while 94.5 percent of it consists of level areas. Kohsan District has common borders with three districts of Herat Province and also borders Iran to the west.

About 57 percent of the Kohsan District population is Pashtun, most of whom are Sunni Muslims. Tajiks, Tahiris, Baluches, Jamshidis, Mirs, Arabs, Mishmasts, and Timuris constitute the other 43 percent of the population. Dari and Pashtu are the main languages spoken in the district. Although the majority of the residents are Pashtun, 80 percent of them speak Dari.

ETHNIC & TRIBAL GROUPS

OVERVIEW

Pashtuns constitute most of the Kohsan District population. The Pashtun tribes in this district include Mahdizais, Alizais, Noorzais, Achakzais, Mashinzai, Popalzais, Soltanzais, Samuzais, Qurizais, and Barakzais. Pashtuns reside in most parts of the district, including Qala Haji Rashid, Qoddusabad, Islam Qala, Bonyad, Kamaneh, Qala Sardar, Qala Mashi, Kargasabad, Ahmadabad, Nurabad, Kham-e Milak, and Tirpol. Tajiks, Taheris, Baluches, Jamshidis, Mirs, Arabs, Timuris, and Mishmasts are scattered throughout other parts of the district.

TRIBES

Pashtuns

The Noorzais

The Noorzais and Alizais, sub-tribes of Durrani Pashtuns, reside in Bonyad Village and along the Islam Qala border. The most well-known tribal elders among the two tribes are Haji Naeem, who lives in Islam Qala and who is also the District Community Council Chairman, and Wakil Zarrin, who was an MP from 2005-2010. These two Pashtun tribes constitute 33 percent of the district population.

The Mahdizais

The Mahdizais make up seven percent of the district population and tend to live in Qoddusabad and Islam Qala. Haji Mohammad Mahdizai, the tribal elder, has a large amount influence among the Mahdizais.



Figure 2:
Kohsan District Tribal Groups

Quick Facts

Demographics

Ethnic Groups:

- Pashtun 57%
- Tajik 30%, Arab, Turkmen, and Mishmast 13%

Religious Groups:

Sunni 100%

Tribal Groups:

- Noorzai
- Alizai
- Achakzai
- Mahdizai
- Popalzai
- Ghorzai
- Barakzai
- Jamshidi
- Timuri

The Achakzais

The Achakzai is a sub-group of the Zirak branch of Durrani Pashtuns and constitutes five percent of the district population. The Achakzais reside mainly in Qala-e Sardar and Kargas Ab Villages. Aziz Khan is the tribal elder in this area.

The Barakzais

The Barakzais reside in Qoddusabad and constitute five percent of the district population. Abdul Karim is the tribal elder of the Barakzais.

Ghorzais

The Ghorzais reside in Qoddusabad and constitute four percent of the district population. Nasir Ahmad, who lives in Islam Qala, is the tribal elder and is popular among the tribe.

Popalzais

The Popalzais reside in Qala-e Haji Alisher and constitute three percent of the district population. Arbab Ghafoor is the tribal elder who lives there.

Tajiks

Tajiks, who are divided into the Jamshidi, Timuri, and Taheri tribes, reside in Qala Nawak, Kalat-e Taheriha, Sar Kalha, Shamsabad-e Haji Mir Khan, Islam Qala, Kalat-e Ghazi, Kalat-e Mir Hakim, Mostafa Bek, and Kalat-e Timuriha Villages, as well as the Kohsan center. Tajiks speak Dari and constitute 30 percent of the district population.

The Jamshidis

The Jamshidi are a small minority tribe located in Afghanistan. They belong to a larger cluster of tribes, the Char Aimaq, who reside in the center of Kohsan, Kalat-e Ghazi, Kalat-e Mir Hakim, and Mostafa Bek. The Jamshidi, like other Aimaq tribes, speak Farsi, with some Turkic (Aimaq) vocabulary. The tribal elder of the Jamshidis is Mullah Borhan.

Interaction with various groups has produced a mixed heritage among the Char Aimaq. The Char Aimaq were active in defending against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and fought in the subsequent civil war.

The Jamshidi are virtually all Sunni Muslims of the Hanafite branch.

The Timuris

The Timuri are one of the smaller Aimaq tribes found in western Afghanistan. The original homeland of the Timuri was western Badghis; however, the Timuri, whose total population numbers approximately 33,000, reside throughout western Afghanistan. In Kohsan District, the Timuris mainly reside in Kalat-e Timuriha and Islam Qala Villages.

The Baluches

The Baluches constitute 10 percent of the Kohsan District population, and reside in Islam Qala, Qazel Islam, and Qoddusabad Villages. Mullah Gholam Nabi Karimi, who is also the Khatib (preacher) of the Islam Qala town congregational mosque, is the tribal elder and lives in Islam Qala.

Arabs and Mishmasts

Some families called Arabs, who have been displaced from other provinces, reside in the district center. The Mishmast tribe, which constitutes three percent of the population, resides in Bai Mohammad, Shamsabad, and Juy Naw Villages. Arbab Abdul Samad and Arbab Mahmud are the tribal elders of this tribe.

THE ECONOMY

Some of the main sources of income for Kohsan District residents are agriculture and livestock. Ten percent of the residents earn a living through small industries such as carpet weaving, embroidery, and macramé knotting. The biggest market in this district is the Islam Qala market where people sell and buy food, agriculture, and produce.

The Islam Qala border crossing, which is one of the important borders in Afghanistan, is located in Kohsan District. The trade through this border has created employment for a large number of residents. Through this border, dried fruits, saffron, carpets, spices, sesame, watermelon seeds, and fluff are exported to Iran and in return gas, fuel, iron, food, and clothing are imported to Afghanistan. The Islam Qala border crossing is also a transit route for neighboring countries such as Iran, through which it exports goods to Pakistan and other countries.

The Islam Qala customs revenue in the first four months of last year (1392) was 857,219,739 AFN, which increased to 1,019,583,580 AFN during the first four months of this year (1393). The additional revenue, which benefited the local residents, is from the increased import of food, fuel, and fresh and dried fruits from Iran and China.

AGRICULTURE

Thirty five percent of Kohsan District's land is arable, out of which 25 percent is irrigated land, 10 percent is rain-fed, and the remaining is primarily pasture land. Farmers in this district use river water, springs, and Kariz for irrigation purposes. The total area of the cultivated lands is 148,000 hectares. Grains, vegetables, fruits, and cereals constitute the major crops in Kohsan. The crops include barley, maize, wheat, grapes, apples, peaches, prunes, peanuts, potatoes, eggplants, tomatoes, okra, cherries, figs, and pears.

QUICK FACTS

Agriculture

Main Crops:

- Vegetables
- Grains
- Fruits
- Legumes

Main Livestock:

280,140

- Cows
- Sheep
- Goats
- Donkeys
- Camels
- Horses

The livestock in this district include cows, sheep, goats, donkeys, camels, and horses. The district has dairy products such as milk, yogurt, butter, cheese, milk cream, and dried whey. There are 13 agriculture cooperatives, 25 poultry farms, and three cattle farms in this district. There are 1,410 farmers with memberships in the cooperatives.

Kohsan is one of the districts with no poppy cultivation, but since it shares a common border with Iran, it has turned into a drug transit route for drug smugglers. Drug smuggling in this district has caused 5,000 young people to become addicted to drugs, including opium.

Farmers in this district face many challenges. The lack of a suitable market for agricultural products, a damaged irrigation system, a lack of fertilizers, a shortage of improved seeds, a lack of mechanized agricultural system, the presence of animal and plant diseases and pests, and the lack of professional veterinarians are the main problems in the district. In addition, due to years of drought, the level of irrigation water has diminished in the district and most agricultural lands are faced with a lack of irrigation water.

Because of the mentioned problems, this year the Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) donated 10 tons of wheat as seeds and 1,200 tons of saffron bulbs to district farmers. In addition, 20 farmers were given assistance with the cultivation of 20 pieces of land for pistachio gardens valued at 27,000 Euros, which came from the Italian Cooperation budget.

SERVICES

EDUCATION

Kohsan District has 38 schools, including six high schools, 15 secondary schools, and 17 primary schools. In total, 397 teachers teach 23,808 students (11,763 male, 9,424 female) in Kohsan. There is no university in this district.

In total, due to lack of proper school facilities, professional teachers and teaching material, the district educational system is weak. Out of 37 schools, 19 have no building. In the summer and windy seasons of Herat, students study in open space. In some schools, like the Islam Qala school, parents accompany their daughters to school due to security problems.

There are five literacy courses for women and three literacy centers for men at the district level. There are 10 community-based homeschools operating in the district. There is no private school in the district.

Organizations such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC) have established 27 educational centers, and the AVEC organization has established four literacy classes for women.

There are eight unofficial Islamic institutes in this district, which are located in Kohsan center, Qala Sardar, Ahmadabad, Quddosabad, Islam Qala, Kalat-e Mir Hakim, and Kalat-e Qazi. In these institutes, 290 students are taught by 24 teachers. About 70 students are studying religious subjects at Shamsul-madars of Kohsan. These institutes play an important role in religious education for residents.

HEALTH

This district has 43 health posts. These health posts, which are active in different areas of the district, deliver basic services such as first aid and basic health education to local residents. There are two Comprehensive Health Clinics (CHCs), one Basic Health Clinic (BHC), and one mobile health team in the district. There is no hospital in Kohsan district. Detailed information regarding health facilities are as follows:

- The CHC in Islam Qala covers 22,580 people with health services. This center has 15 health staff members and on average, treats 4,500 people every month.
- The CHC in the district center covers 19,200 people. This center has 15 health and administrative staff members and on average, treats 2,100 people every month.
- The BHC in the village of Bonyad covers 9,320 people. This center has six health and administrative personnel and on average, treats 1,200 people every month.
- The mobile health team, which is funded by ACTD, covers most secure areas in Kohsan. The mobile team services are mainly for Kuchis who have no other access to health services.

In all these health centers, 36 health and administrative personnel are working. These centers cover 51,100 people. The main services delivered in the district are: first aid, vaccination, and basic healthcare. The main diseases recorded at the clinics are seasonal diseases, tuberculosis, leishmaniasis, and malaria. No surgery is done in the district. The maximum distance from the villages to the health centers is 40 kilometers.

Volunteers who deliver services to district residents in the 43 health posts have received three weeks of health trainings in line with DoPH standards.

Health services delivered in this district are prenatal and postnatal healthcare, mental healthcare, vaccinations, child and adolescent healthcare, nutrition counseling, and controlling communicable diseases. About 70 percent of Kohsan District residents have access to basic health services.

WATER AND SANITATION

Quick facts

Health

- Hospital: There is no hospital
- Security Checkpoints: 43
- Health Centers: 3
- Mobile Health Team

Services:

- First Aid
- Vaccination
- Basic Health Treatment

Water

- Access to clean water:
78% of population

In general, the sanitary system in the district is relatively good. In most villages, water supply networks have been built by the NSP so that they can use healthy water. Residents of Kalat-e Qazi, Kalat-e Nayeb Ghafoor, Kalat-e Jaghtai Ta Kham, Juy Naw Pirardeh, Shamsabad, Mostafa Beg, Chakaftari, Bai Mohammad, Kamaneh and Chah Sangi use well water and hand pumps. The residents of Kamaneh Village use water from the river. In this village, well water down to 100 meters in depth is salty and not potable.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Herat-Islam Qala Highway, which is the main district road, passes through Kohsan District and links Herat to the Du Gharun border of Iran.

In addition to the main Islam Qala Highway, the district has two smaller highways, one of which links Kohsan District to Golran District in the north, and the other of which passes through Tah Kham Village and Komisari in the southwest, ending at the center of Ghoryan District. The sub-roads in this district are unpaved.

In total, there are 11 kilometers of paved roads, 130 kilometers of graveled roads, and 400 kilometers of unpaved roads in Kohsan District. In 80 percent of the villages, people have access to roads that are open to traffic throughout all seasons of the year.

Electricity

In Kohsan District, 80 percent of the population use imported electricity from Iran. In areas that do not have access to imported electricity, locals meet their electricity needs by using solar cells.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunication companies such as Roshan, AWCC, Areeba, and Etisalat operate throughout the district, except for a few remote villages.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Haji Jamal Gol Rahmani is the District Governor of Kohsan. Mr. Rahmani used to work as the Herat Airport Manager of Civilian Aviation and at the Presidential Office.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

- Qari Nizamuddin Rahmani, General Executive Manager
- Nur Ahmad Arab, Admin/Finance Manager
- Nur Ahmad Nazari, Villages Manager
- Abdul Waseh Farhang, Technical and Sectorial Services Manager
- Mawlawi Sayed Qasem Hosseini, Hajj and Islamic Affairs, Islamic Guidance Manager
- Taj Mohammad Kakar, Kohsan District Governor
- Saaduddin Abbasi, Revenues Manager
- Abdul Qader Nayebzadeh, Head of the NDS

- Haji Gholam Daud, Police Chief
- Faraidoon Jamshidi, Agricultural Services Manager
- Wali Mohammad Niyazi, Education Department Manager
- Haji Abdul Zaher, Law Department Manager
- Abubakr Mohammadi, Telecommunications Manager
- Dr Abdul Qadir Nayebezhadeh, Head of the Public Health Department
- Haji Mawlawi Wali Mohammad Saeedi, Head of the Literacy Department
- Mohammad Ali Moradi, Head of the Electricity Department

POLICE CHIEF

Haji Gholam Daud was recently appointed as the Kohsan District Police Chief. Prior to that, he was the police chief of Golran District.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) include the District Development Assembly (DDA) and the local shura of Kohsan District residents chaired by Haji Mohammad Naeem (Noorzai), which is officially inactive, but is informally active to solve locals' problems. Shuras engage in conflict resolution and the mediation of tribal or family disputes.

PARLIAMENTARY MEMBERS

Provincial Council

Haji Sher Ahmad Alizai is the Kohsan District representative at the Provincial Council.

Wolesi Jirga

Kohsan District has no members in the Wolesi Jirga.

Wolesi Meshrano (Senate)

Kohsan District has no members in the Meshrano Jirga.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ASSEMBLY (DDA)

The DDA is a formal shura under the Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD). It is comprised of an assembly of members, an executive committee (chairman, deputy chairman, treasurer, and secretary), and an advisory council of women. In total, the DDA consists of 30 members, including 10 women. (See Appendix A for full list of DDA members.)

The DDA is responsible for district development planning, project monitoring, and prioritizing projects based on community need. The DDA focuses on three main areas of work: (1) development, (2) peace and security, and (3) justice and conflict resolution. Subcommittees in

each area of work at the DDA are: project management, procurement and financial management, monitoring and evaluation, and disaster management. The DDA meets every 15 days.

The DDA is formed via a fair election process. According to MRRD regulations, each CDC is permitted to nominate two members—one woman and one man—to a cluster. The number of villages in a cluster is not fixed and varies according to distance and population. Each district has 10 clusters. Each cluster is permitted to nominate three members to represent the cluster at the DDA.

Shuras report activity by written letter. The DDA monthly report is sent to the DRRD and a public shura report is submitted to the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG). Non-governmental shuras have been established in this district to solve people's problems. The district ulema shuras, which have been established by religious leaders to solve community problems, including family and land disputes, are examples of such shuras.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS (CDCS)

There are 56 CDCs in Kohsan District, and each of them has two separate committees, one for women and one for men. Each committee has 15 members, a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer.

POLITICS

So far no political party or organization has been registered in Kohsan District.

OTHER KEY ACTORS:

- Haji Alauddin: From the Kohsan District center, a former Jihadi commander. He is currently a tribal elder and an influential person in the community.
- Haji Wakil Zarrin Alizai: Tribal elder and former MP.
- Mawlawi Gholam Nabi Karimi: Former Jihadi commander and Herat Provincial Council member.
- Haji Mohammad Naeem Nurzai: Nurzai tribal elder and chairman of the district community shura.
- Haji Arbab Abdul Ghafoor Taheri: Former Jihadi commander and current tribal elder in Qala Nawak Village.
- Haji Mohammad Mahdizai: Mahdizai tribal elder in the Qoddusabad area.

QUICK FACTS

Political Movements

None

Provincial Governor

Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi

District Governor

Haji Jama Gol Rahmani

MPs

- Wolesi Jirga:
It has no members
- Meshrano Jirga:
It has no members
- Provincial Council:

Haji Sher Ahmad Alizai

District Police Chief:

- Haji Gholam Daud

GENDER

The Women’s Council is active in this district. The council focuses on engaging women in community affairs, particularly in decision-making processes at the district level. The council also works to support income-generating trades such as carpet weaving, sewing, macramé knotting, embroidery, confectionary, and tailoring.

Most village residents of the district have previously lived and worked in Iran. During the immigration years, the Kohsan District women were able to learn new skills, particularly in handicrafts. However, without a source of funding or work equipment, women will not be able to take part in the economic market, use their skills, or earn an income.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

UN Operations in Kohsan District	
Organization	Project
World Food Program (WFP)	Emergency Relief and work for food programs

National and International NGO activities in Kohsan District	
Organization	Project
World Vision	World Vision is implementing a mother and child feeding project in Kohsan District.
Rehabilitation Association and Agricultural Development for Afghanistan (RAADA)	RAADA is implementing agricultural extension and rights protection, as well as improving products, marketing, and livelihood support programs.
Help- German	Conducting capacity building, computer skills, English language, and vocational trainings for returnees from Iran.
Halo Trust	The Halo Trust is working on demining in Katmana and Bonyad Villages.
Bakhtar Network Association	The Bakhtar Network Association is providing medicine in Islam Qala, Kohsan, and Bonyad Villages.

MEDIA

Afghan National TV has a branch in Kohsan District through which it broadcasts its programs. This branch in Kohsan District broadcasts news and programs by its own initiative through the Afghan National TV transponder to Kohsan residents. These programs reach most of the residents. There is also a private radio station in Islam Qala in Kohsan District called “Radio Zohal,” which broadcasts programs and advertisements.

APPENDIX A: DDA LISTS

Kohsan DDA		
#	Name	Title
1	Haji Arbab Naeem	Chairman
2	Haji Shahabuddin	Deputy
3	Bulqais	Secretary
4	Wazir Ahmad	Treasurer (Cashier)
5	Mawlawi Lal Mohammad	Member
6	Haji Ghulam Farooq	Member
7	Gulaab	Member
8	Haji Shad Poor	Member
9	Arbab Siah Khan	Member
10	Arbab Abdul Fattah	Member
11	Arbab Abdul Wahaab	Member
12	Arbab Abdul Samad	Member
13	Faqir Ahmad	Member
14	Gulbuddin	Member
15	Haji Arbab Nazam	Member
16	Haji Allah Dad	Member
17	Arbab Ahmad	Member
18	Mawlawi Mohammad Mustafa	Member
19	Ata Mohammad	Member
20	Haji Abdul Wahed	Member
21	Fazl Ahmad	Member
22	Bibi Hoor	Member
23	Samira	Member
24	Bibi Gul	Member
25	Maleka	Member
26	Haji Sahifa	Member
27	Shafiq	Member
28	Gul Jamal	Member
29	Marjan	Member
30	Najiba	Member

APPENDIX B: TRIBAL ELDERS OF KOHSAN

Name	Location
Alhaj Mawlawi Wali Mohammad Saeed	Masjid Jama-e-Markaz
Alhaj Mawlawi Rahmuddin	Qala-e-Sardar
Alhaj Mawlawi Lal Mohammad	Qudusabad
Ahaj Mawlawi Ghulam Nabi Karimi	Islam Qala
Qari Abdul Qadir Shahid Zadeh	Kalate-e-Mir Hakim
Alhaj Mawlawi Saifullah Khatibi	Kalate-e-Qazi
Alhaj Mawlawi Adham	Qazel Islam
Mawlawi Abdul Hakim	Mustafa Bek
Mawlawi Ghulam Ahmad	Bonyad Village
Mawlawi Nesar Ahmad	Kamaneh
Mawlawi Farahuddin	Bai Mohammad
Mawlawi Abdul Aziz	Tah-e-Kham
Mawlawi Abdul Shokoor Qasemi	District Center
Mawlawi Abdul Qadeer	District Center
Faqir Ahmad Jan	District Center
Mawlawi Besmellah	District Center
Alhaj Mawlawi Said Qasem	District Center

APPENDIX C: MAPS

Figure I: Kohsan District Location in Herat Province
Source: Afghanistan Information Management Service
<http://www.aims.org.af>

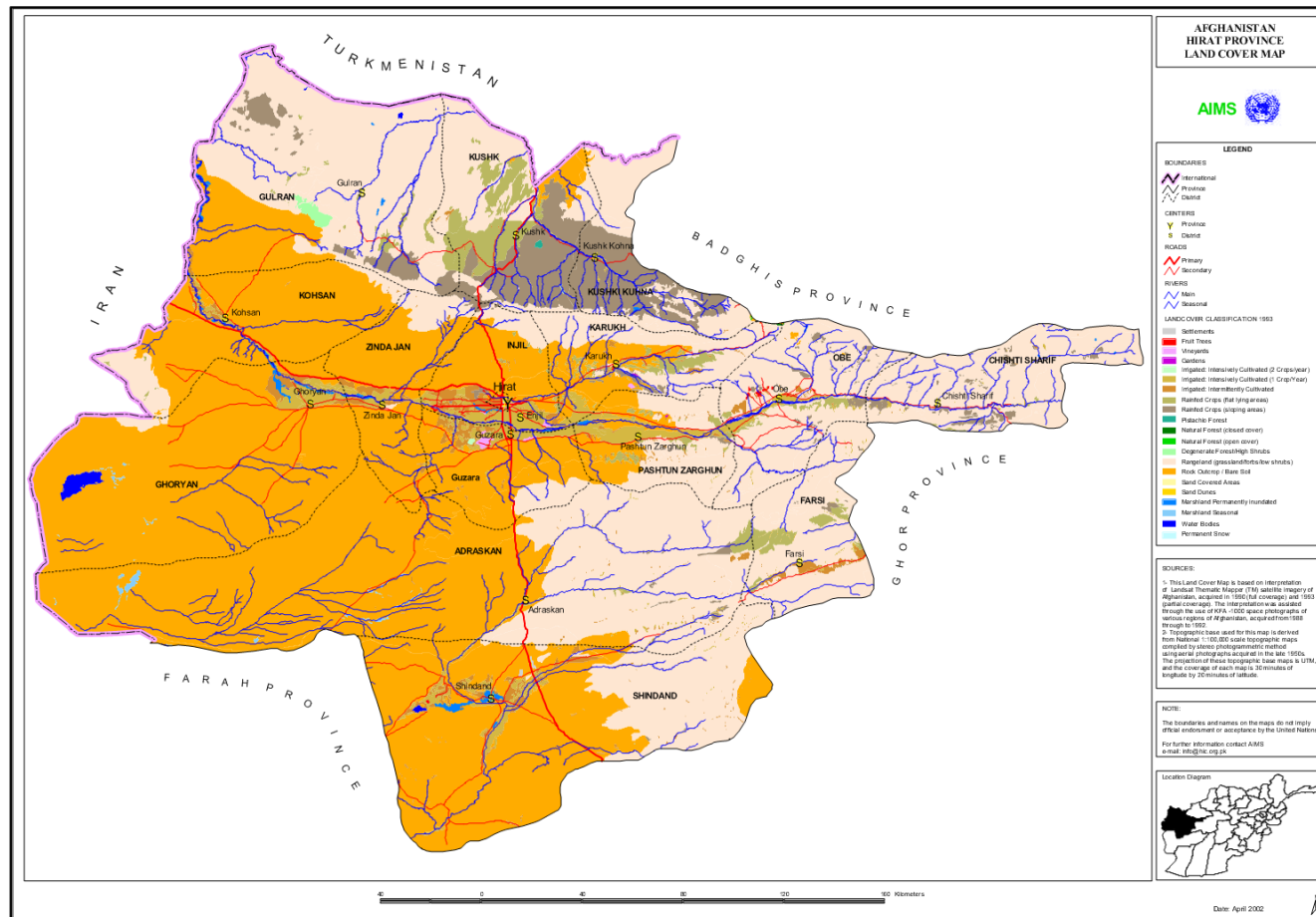


Figure 2: Tribes Location in Kohsan District
<http://www.nps.edu/programs/ccs/Herat/Herat.html>

